United Nations E/CN.15/1999/6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 February 1999

Original: English

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Eighth session
Vienna, 27 April-6 May 1999
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/110 of 9 December 1998. It should be read in conjunction with the previous Secretary-General's reports on preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (E/CN.15/1997/2, E/CN.15/1998/2 and A/53/380). Also of direct relevance is chapter II of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventh session,[1] which summarizes the deliberations of the Commission on the preparations for the Tenth Congress.

II. Decisions taken

2. The General Assembly has already taken a number of decisions on organizational and substantive matters related to the Tenth Congress, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which is the preparatory body for the Congress, and the Economic and Social Council.

A. Venue and dates

3. Pursuant to the offer of the Government of Austria to host the Tenth Congress and to General Assembly resolution 53/110, the Tenth Congress is to be held in Vienna from 10 to 17 April 2000, with pre-congress consultations to be held on 9 April 2000. That will be followed immediately by a three-day session of the Commission, which will consider the recommendations of the Tenth Congress.

B. Theme of the Tenth Congress

4. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/110, decided that the theme of the Tenth Congress should be "Crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century".

C. Provisional agenda

5. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/110, approved the following provisional agenda for the Tenth Congress:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Promoting the rule of law and strengthening the criminal justice system.
4. International cooperation in combating transnational crime: new challenges in the twenty-first century.
5. Effective crime prevention: keeping pace with new developments.
6. Offenders and victims: accountability and fairness in the justice process.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

D. Programme of work

6. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/110, endorsed the programme of work for the Tenth Congress, including the holding of four practical-oriented technical workshops on the following subjects:

(a) Combating corruption;

(b) Crimes related to the computer network;

(c) Community involvement in crime prevention;

(d) Women in the criminal justice system.

7. The programme of work takes into account the decision of the Assembly, in its resolution 52/91 of 12 December 1997, to reserve the first two days of the plenary session at the Tenth Congress following its opening primarily for statements by representatives at a high political level on its main themes.

8. The morning of the first day of the Tenth Congress will be devoted to the opening ceremony, followed by organizational matters, such as the election of officers. From the afternoon of the first day, the work of the Tenth Congress will be undertaken in concurrent sessions of a plenary and two committees. The sessions of the plenary will consist of the high-level segment, the general debate, deliberations of the Committee of the Whole and the consideration of conclusions and recommendations. The sessions of the two committees will consist of the discussion of two substantive agenda items of the Tenth Congress and two workshops each. For details, see the draft programme of work, which is annexed to the present report.

9. The purpose of the pre-congress consultations, to be held on 9 April 2000, is to reach agreement on the recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Tenth Congress on the opening day, such as the election of officers, the appointment of the Credentials Committee and the arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Congress.

E. Outcome of the Tenth Congress

10. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/110, requested the Tenth Congress to elaborate a single declaration, containing its recommendations on the various substantive items of its agenda, for consideration by the Commission at its ninth session.

F. Documentation

11. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 52/91 and 53/110 and the proposals set out in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the preparations for the Tenth Congress (E/CN.15/1999/2), the Tenth Congress will have before it the following documentation:

(a) Basic documents:

(i) Draft declaration, submitted to the Tenth Congress by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session;

(ii) Reports of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress (A/CONF.187/RPM.1/1, A/CONF.187/RPM.2/1, A/CONF.187/RPM.3/1 and A/CONF.187/RPM.4/1);

(iii) Overview of the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide;

(iv) Working papers on each of the four substantive items of the provisional agenda for the Tenth Congress;

(v) Working papers on each of the subjects of the four workshops to be held at the Tenth Congress;

(b) Background documents:

(i) Discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress (A/CONF.187/PM.1);

(ii) Discussion guide on the workshops, ancillary meetings, symposia and exhibits to be held at the Tenth Congress (A/CONF.187/PM.1/Add.1);

(iii) National papers and reports submitted by Governments;

(iv) Reports submitted by centres and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, affiliated with the United Nations;

(v) Reports submitted by intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as contributions by individual experts on the roster of the Secretariat, dealing with specific questions in their areas of concern.

G. Rules of procedure

12. The Tenth Congress will be conducted in accordance with the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, approved by the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 1992/32 of 27 July 1992.

H. Resource allocation

13. The programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 included a modest resource allocation of $208,300 for holding the regional preparatory meetings and obtaining expertise and temporary assistance in order to advance in the preparations for the Congress. In its resolution 52/91, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate resources for the biennium 2000-2001 are provided for the conduct of the Tenth Congress. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, to be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, in 1999, will include provisions to cover the estimated basic costs for convening the Tenth Congress, namely, for the participation of one representative of each

of the least developed countries, obtaining expert input for preparing the substantive documentation, temporary assistance, hospitality and other conference-servicing costs.

III. Regional preparatory meetings

14. There are four regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress:

(a) Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Bangkok from 2 to 4 November 1998 in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Beirut from 11 to 13 November 1998 in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Government of Lebanon;

(c) African Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Kampala from 7 to 9 December 1998 at the invitation of the Government of Uganda and in cooperation with the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

(d) Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in San Jose from 22 to 24 February 1999 at the invitation of the Government of Costa Rica and in cooperation with the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

15. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/110, the regional preparatory meetings have been held for a duration of three days each and have been devoted exclusively to the following: (a) the consideration, from a regional perspective, of the four substantive items of the provisional agenda for the Tenth Congress and of the subject of each of the four workshops; and (b) the formulation of recommendations to serve as elements for the draft declaration to be prepared by the Commission at its eighth session for submission to the Tenth Congress.

16. The reports of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress (A/CONF.187/RPM.1/1, A/CONF.187/RPM.2/1, A/CONF.187/RPM.3/1 and A/CONF.187/RPM.4/1) will be before the Commission at its eighth session.

IV. Workshops

17. A discussion guide on the workshops was reviewed by the Commission at its seventh session. The guide has been revised on the basis of the Commission's deliberations and will be issued as a background document of the Tenth Congress. As noted in paragraph 12 above, a working paper on each of the four subjects of the workshops will be presented to the Tenth Congress.

18. The report of each of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress will contain a summary of the meeting's deliberations on the workshops.

19. The Fourth European Colloquium on Crime and Criminal Policy, held in Helsinki from 10 to 12 December 1998 by the European Institute on Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, was devoted to addressing the subjects of the workshops.

20. Information on the organizational and substantive preparations for the four workshops is presented below.

A. Workshop on combating corruption

21. The workshop on combating corruption is coordinated by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Institute. An initial review of the objectives of the workshop was undertaken at a meeting organized by the Institute in Washington, D.C., on 25 February 1999. The meeting was attended by experts from the World Bank, Transparency International and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. A further examination of the objectives, as well as of the agenda and the outcome of the workshop, will be carried out at a meeting to be held in conjunction with an international conference on corruption in Milan in late 1999.

22. The workshop will focus on three main areas: (a) recent activities in fighting corruption and an analysis of the results achieved by the various actors, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Organization of American States, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the International Chamber of Commerce and Transparency International; (b) the best practices in fighting corruption and the initiatives and projects of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Secretariat, such as the global

technical cooperation activities, such as training courses in effective crime prevention.

D. Workshop on women in the criminal justice system

26. The workshop on women in the criminal justice system, which is being coordinated by the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, will cover the following issues: female criminality; the treatment of female offenders; women as victims; and women as practitioners. Documentation on these issues, providing overview and trend analysis, will be made available to participants. The workshop is expected to identify specific problems and solutions concerning the status of women in society and gender mainstreaming in the criminal justice system. It will also provide examples of how such problems are being dealt with in different countries and suggest activities for technical assistance.

V. Other arrangements

27. The Secretariat is finalizing a guide that will contain pertinent information regarding participation at the Tenth Congress.

28. Arrangements regarding the provision of facilities for holding the Tenth Congress are being finalized with the Government of Austria.

29. As has been the practice with respect to previous congresses, a Secretary-General of the Tenth Congress will be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

VI. Action required of the Commission

30. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/110, requested the Commission, at its eighth session:

(a) To accord high priority to the finalization of all the necessary organizational and substantive arrangements for the Congress;

(b) To prepare a draft declaration for submission to the Tenth Congress, taking into account the results of the regional preparatory meetings.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998*, Supplement No. 10 (E/1998/30 and Corr.1).

Annex

Draft programme of work for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Day	*Plenary*	*Committee I*	*Committee II*
1			
Morning		Opening ceremony	
Afternoon	Presentation of the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide and high-level segment	Introduction and discussion of topic I: Promoting the rule of law and strengthening the criminal justice system	Introduction and discussion of topic III: Effective crime prevention: keeping pace with new developments
2			
Morning	High-level segment	Topic I (continued)	Topic III (continued)
Afternoon	High-level segment	Topic I (continued)	Topic III (continued)
3			
Morning	High-level segment	Topic I (continued)	Topic III (continued)
Afternoon	General debate	Topic I (continued)	Workshop on community involvement in crime prevention
4			
Morning	General debate	Workshop on combating corruption	Workshop on community involvement (continued)
Afternoon	General debate	Workshop on combating corruption (continued)	Workshop on community involvement (continued)
5			
Morning	General debate	Workshop on combating corruption (continued)	Workshop on community involvement (continued)
Afternoon	General debate	Workshop on combating corruption (continued)	Introduction and discussion of topic II: International cooperation in combating transnational crime: new challenges in the twenty-first century

Day	Plenary	Committee I	Committee II
4			
Morning	General debate	Introduction and discussion of topic IV (Offenders and victims: accountability and fairness in the justice process)	Topic II (continued)
Afternoon	General debate	Topic IV (continued)	Topic II (continued)
5			
Morning	General debate	Topic IV (continued)	Topic II (continued)
Afternoon	Committee of the Whole	Topic IV (continued)	Topic II (continued)
6			
Morning	Committee of the Whole	Workshop on women in the criminal justice system	Workshop on crimes related to the computer network
Afternoon	Committee of the Whole	Workshop on women in the criminal justice system (continued)	Workshop on crimes related to the computer network (continued)
7			
Morning	Committee of the Whole	Workshop on women in the criminal justice system (continued)	Workshop on crimes related to the computer network (continued)
Afternoon	Consideration of conclusions and recommendations	Workshop on women in the criminal justice system (continued)	Workshop on crimes related to the computer network (continued)
10			
Morning and afternoon		Adoption of the report and closure of the Congress	